

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING  
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 15 DECEMBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1070-0-01 (ACCNO 0553)      Status: (8) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERE  
Name: WELSHAN, JOHN THOMAS      Date Status assigned: 15 Jul 1975

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	DATA
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	O +
Grade	02	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	GREEN	Weapon	.38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No		Height	67 in /1.70 mtrs	Weapon No	K653244
Birth date	5 Feb 1942	Weight	126 lb / 57.1 kg	Duty pos	PILOT
Home State	OHIO	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: CRASH SITE  
UTM: 48PWR732298  
Lat/Long: 091858N / 1053960E  
Country: SOUTH VIETNAM  
Military Region: 4  
Mission Province: MINH HAI  
(formerly): BAC LIEU  
Mission District: VINH LOI  
Mission Date: 3 Mar 1968 1435L  
Mission Category: 3  
Local Analysis: Populated area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Sep 93, Aug 87  
Investigations: Oct 93  
Surveys: Oct 93  
Vessey Case: NO  
Case type: DISCREPANCY  
Survivability: (3) Unknown

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: A37A	Serial: 14521
Crash Type: None	Engine Type: J8517A
Call Sign: RAP 72	1 Serial: E248055
Year: 67	2 Serial: E248017

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

# = Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.  
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.  
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

CASE: 1070

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

11 June 1975

ON 3 MARCH 1968, 1LT JOHN T. WELSHAN WAS THE PILOT OF THE NUMBER TWO AIRCRAFT (#67-14521) IN A FLIGHT OF TWO A37A'S ON A COMBAT MISSION OVER SOUTH VIETNAM. BOTH AIRCRAFT ARRIVED IN THE TARGET AREA, GRID COORDINATES (GC) WR 732298, AND CONTACTED THE FORWARD AIR CONTROLLER (FAC), CALL SIGN "DAVID 24". AFTER RECEIVING A TARGET BRIEFING, BOTH PILOTS EXPENDED THE ORDNANCE CARRIED ON THE AIRCRAFT. LT WELSHAN, MAKING HIS FINAL ROCKET PASS, CALLED "OFF TARGET", ACKNOWLEDGED A RADIO CALL FROM THE FAC, AND THEN DISAPPEARED INTO A CLOUD FORMATION. THIS WAS AT 1435 HOURS.

HIS FOLLOW-UP STRAFING ATTACK WAS NOT MADE AND NEITHER THE LEAD AIRCRAFT NOR THE FAC HEARD ANY FURTHER RADIO TRANSMISSIONS FROM LT WELSHAN. ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH RADIO CONTACT WITH LT WELSHAN FAILED. NO HOSTILE FIRE, EXPLOSION, FALLING DEBRIS OR PARACHUTE WAS SEEN. AN IMMEDIATE SEARCH OF THE AREA ENDED WITHOUT ANY OBSERVATION OF A POSSIBLE CRASH SITE. AT 1515 HOURS, LEAD HAD TO RETURN TO HIS HOME BASE TO REFUEL, HOWEVER, 16 OTHER AIRCRAFT CONTINUED TO SEARCH A 25 MILE RADIUS SURROUNDING THE TARGET; BUT NO FIRES OR SUSPECTED CRASH SITES WERE OBSERVED, AND NO ELECTRONIC SIGNALS WERE RECEIVED.

DURING THE DAYLIGHT HOURS OF 4 AND 5 MARCH, SEARCH EFFORTS WERE CONTINUED OVER AN EXPANDED AREA AND ALONG THE COAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 12 MILES OUT TO SEA. SEARCH EFFORTS WERE SUSPENDED AT 1455 HOURS ON 5 MARCH 1968. (REF 1, 2, 3 & 4) IN JUNE 1971 AN AMERICAN SEARCH OPERATION WAS CONDUCTED FOR LT WELSHAN'S AIRCRAFT BASED ON REPORTS THAT THE AIRCRAFT HAD CRASHED IN THE VICINITY OF GC WR 742 280. RESULTING FROM THAT INVESTIGATION, SEVERAL PIECES OF SUSPECTED AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE WERE GATHERED FROM INHABITANTS LIVING NEARBY, AND AN EXCAVATION WAS MADE IN THE VICINITY OF A CRATER BUT NO EVIDENCE OF WRECKAGE WAS FOUND.

NO DEBRIS WAS FOUND THAT COULD POSITIVELY BE DETERMINED TO BE WRECKAGE OF AN AIRCRAFT. NO HUMAN REMAINS WERE FOUND. THE PROVINCE CHIEF USED HEAVY EQUIPMENT TO CONTINUE EXCAVATING THE SITE AFTER THE JCRC TEAM LEFT THE AREA. EXCAVATION TO A DEPTH OF 8 METERS PRODUCED NO POSITIVE RESULTS. CONTINUED INVESTIGATION AND PUBCOM CAMPAIGNS PRODUCED NO POSITIVE INFORMATION. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. LT WELSHAN IS CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

INHABITANTS SPECULATED THAT ONE AMERICAN HAD BEEN BURIED NEARBY WITH VC DEAD, IN 1968. (REF 5) IN AUGUST 1972, THE MILITARY ID CARD OF LT WELSHAN WAS TURNED OVER BY THE ARVN TO AMERICAN FORCES. AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ARVN HAVING HIS CARD WAS MADE. REPORTEDLY THE CARD HAD BEEN FOUND ON 14 AUGUST 1972 BY ARVN FORCES IN A BUNKER NEAR

CASE: 1070

(GC) WR 345 425. SOME VC PAPERS AND REPORTS ALSO WERE FOUND WITH THE CARD. THESE ACCOMPANYING PAPERS WERE TRANSLATED, BUT THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF LT WELSHAN'S STATUS, THE INCIDENT IN WHICH HE WAS INVOLVED, OR THE CIRCUMSTANCES BY WHICH HIS ID CARD CAME INTO VC HANDS. (REF 6)

ADO MR IV COMMENT--IN DECEMBER 1973, JCRC PROPOSED TO CONDUCT AN OPERATION TO RESOLVE THIS SITE AND TO RECOVER ANY REMAINS. HOWEVER, THE PROPOSAL WAS DEFERRED PENDING SUCCESS OF ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE GUIDES TO THE CRASH SITE. DURING JULY-AUGUST 1974, INVESTIGATION BY ADO MR-IV RESULTED IN RECOVERY OF METAL DEBRIS, AT LEAST ONE PIECE OF WHICH WAS DETERMINED PROBABLY TO HAVE COME FROM AN A37 AIRCRAFT OF THE TYPE LOST IN THE AREA. INHABITANTS OF THE AREA CLAIMED TO KNOW THE EXACT SITE OF THE CRASH. IN SEPTEMBER 1974, JCRC HIRED LOCAL VILLAGERS AND FOR TWO DAYS EXCAVATED THE SITE.

THE REFUGEE REPORTED BURYING TWO SETS OF REMAINS NEAR PHUOC THANH HAMLET. THESE REMAINS WERE ALLEGEDLY FROM AN AIRCRAFT WHICH CRASHED IN THE VICINITY OF WR750277. ONE OF THE REMAINS PROBABLY CORRELATES TO REFNO 1070. (REF 7)

SOURCE REPORTS HEARSAY INFORMATION OF U.S. REMAINS IN A FLIGHT SUIT BEING DUG UP IN THE VICINITY OF BAC LIEU (WR 8026). THIS POTENTIALLY CORRELATES TO 1LT JOHN T. WELSHAN. (REF 7)

SOURCE REPORTS OBSERVING "TWO" SETS OF REMAINS DURING 1981 AT PHUOC THANH HAMLET (WR 747270), LONG THANH VILLAGE, VINH LOI DISTRICT, BAC LIEU PROVINCE. THIS POSSIBLY CORRELATES TO 1LT JOHN T. WELSHAN. (REF 7)

SEVERAL REFUGEES REPORTED THE CRASHSITE OF AN AMERICAN PLANE IN THE BAO LIEU PROVINCE. THESE REPORTS POSSIBLY CORRELATE TO JOHN T. WELSHAN. (REF 7)

=== SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION ===

26 March 1985

SOURCE RELAYED HEARSAY INFORMATION ON THE CRASH OF AN AMERICAN HELICOPTER WITH TWO PEOPLE ON BOARD DURING TET 1968 IN FEBRUARY. THE CRASH OCCURRED AT CAN SAP BAC LIEN, VINH LOI (V), BAC LIEN (P). THIS PROBABLY CORRELATES TO 1LT JOHN T. WELSHAN. (REF 8)

=== REFERENCES ===

26 March 1985

REFERENCES: <1> MSG, 7AF, 050905Z MAR 68. <2> MSG, 3TFW, 051230Z

CASE: 1070

MAR 68. <3> MSG, 3TFW, 060650Z MAR 68. <4> RPT, CHIEF CASUALTY REPORTING & SURVIVOR ASSIST BR USAF, DD FORM 1300, 26 JAN 72. <5> MSG, USDAO SGN, 190311Z JUN 73. <6> DA FORM 2496, SUBJ; RECOVERY OF U.S. MILITARY ID CARD, 4C1B, 574TH MID, 29 AUG 72. <7> REFCON; 79-036, 81-035, 82-004, 79-051, 83-010. <8> REFCON 84-313, 18 DEC 84. <9> CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH, 200247Z NOV 93.

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

4 December 1987

A CASE NARRATIVE PERTAINING TO JOHN T. WELSHAN WAS PASSED BY JCRC ON 4 AUG 87 TO THE SRV EMBASSY IN BANGKOK PURSUANT TO AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN GENERAL VESSEY AND SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

18 October 1993

CASE NARRATIVE FOR CASE 1070-0-01 WAS PASSED TO OFFICIALS OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT DURING THE 29 SEP 93 COORDINATION MEETING.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

7 December 1993

ON 8 NOV 93, IE4 CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION OF CASE 1070 IN VINH LOI DISTRICT, MINH HAI PROVINCE. THE JOINT TEAM INTERVIEWED FOUR WITNESSES WHO PROVIDED LIMITED HEARSAY INFORMATION ABOUT THE RECOVERY OF ALLEGED AMERICAN REMAINS, BUT NO INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF THESE REMAINS. THE TEAM SURVEYED THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION AND A CRASH SITE INDICATED BY TWO WITNESSES. NO REMAINS OR MATERIAL EVIDENCE WERE OBTAINED DURING THE COURSE OF THIS INVESTIGATION. (REF 9)



JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING  
CAMP H. M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-5025

21 SEP 1993

CASE 1070-0-01

NARRATIVE

ON 3 MARCH 1968, FIRST LIEUTENANT JOHN T. WELSHAN WAS FLYING AN A-37A FIGHTER BOMBER (SERIAL NUMBER 67-14521) IN A FLIGHT OF TWO AIRCRAFT. THE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN ENTERING A CLOUD FORMATION IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES WR732298, APPROXIMATELY 7 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF VINH LOI, MINH HAI PROVINCE. THE OTHER FLIGHT MEMBER ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT FIRST LIEUTENANT WELSHAN BY RADIO BUT RECEIVED NO RESPONSE. EXTENSIVE SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS FAILED TO LOCATE THE AIRCRAFT.

ON 14 AUGUST 1972, VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS DISCOVERED LIEUTENANT WELSHAN'S MILITARY IDENTIFICATION CARD ALONG WITH OTHER VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST DOCUMENTS IN A BUNKER NEAR GRID COORDINATES WR345425, APPROXIMATELY 50 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF VINH LOI. THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST DOCUMENTS MADE NO MENTION OF LIEUTENANT WELSHAN'S FATE. THE DOCUMENTS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN ORIGINATED BY THE D.764A UNIT (ALSO KNOWN AS THE SOC TRANG ORGANIC MOBILE BATTALION OR THE PHU LOI BATTALION) OR POSSIBLY AN ELEMENT OF THE B.80 UNIT. THE DOCUMENTS IDENTIFIED AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED "BA TAN" AS THE UNIT INFORMATION OFFICER.

PERTINENT DATA ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NAME: WELSHAN, JOHN THOMAS

RANK: FIRST LIEUTENANT, U.S. AIR FORCE

DATE OF BIRTH: 5 FEBRUARY 1942

RACE: CAUCASIAN

HEIGHT: 1.70 METERS

WEIGHT: 57.1 KILOGRAMS

HAIR: BROWN

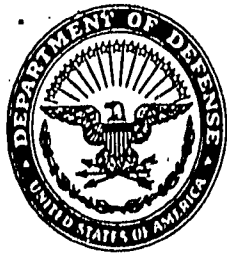
EYES: GREEN

CASE 1070-0-01

PASSED TO OFFICIALS OF THE  
VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT DURING THE  
29 SEP 93 COORDINATION MEETING

275

276



JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING  
BOX 64044  
CAMP H. M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-4044

21 SEP 1993

Vụ số 1070-0-01

Tờ Tường Thuật

Vào ngày mồng 3 tháng 3 năm 1968, Trung Úy John T. Welshan lái máy bay chiến đấu ném bom kiểu A-37A (số hiệu 67-14521) trong biên đội gồm có hai máy bay. Lần cuối cùng chiếc máy bay được nhìn thấy, máy bay đang vào một đám mây trong vùng phụ cận ở toạ độ WR732298, cách Vinh Lợi khoảng độ 7 cây số về phía tây bắc, tỉnh Minh Hải. Phi hành viên khác trong biên đội cố gắng liên lạc với Trung Úy Welshan bằng ra-di-ô nhưng không nhận sự trả lời cả. Sự tìm kiếm và giải cứu rộng lớn không thành công tìm thấy chiếc máy bay.

Vào ngày mồng 4 tháng 8 năm 1972, những lính Việt Nam tìm thấy chứng minh thư quân sự của Trung Úy Welshan cùng với những tài liệu cộng sản Việt Nam khác trong hầm phòng thủ gần toạ độ WR345425, cách Vinh Lợi khoảng độ 50 cây số về phía tây bắc. Những tài liệu cộng sản không đề cập đến số phận của Trung Úy Welshan đâu. Những tài liệu được biết là của đơn vị "D.764A" (cũng có tên Tiểu Đoàn Cơ Động Tỉnh Sóc Trăng hoặc Tiểu Đoàn Phu Loi) hoặc có thể là một bộ phận của đơn vị "B.80". Những tài liệu cho biết là một người có tên là "Ba Tan" là sĩ quan thông tin của đơn vị.

- 2 -

Vụ số 1070-0-01

Sau đây là những chi tiết liên quan:

Họ và tên: Welshan, John Thomas

Cấp bậc: Trung Úy, Không Quân Hoa Kỳ

Ngày sinh: Ngày mồng 5 tháng 2 năm 1942

Chủng tộc: Da trắng

Chiều cao: 1 thước 70

Cân nặng: 57 kí l

Màu tóc: Nâu

Màu mắt: Lục